

Old Basford Primary School; INCLUSIVITY AWARD WINNERS (September 2020)

Old Basford School has been recognised in a national award for schools that work hardest at promoting understanding and combating discrimination between those of different religions and ethnicities. The Nottingham primary school has been placed third in the annual [Accord Inclusivity Award](#), and is one of only four schools to be recognised this year.

The school stood out for its work in breaking down barriers between those of different religious and cultural backgrounds. An important way this was achieved was through a complete overhaul of its Religious Education curriculum, after the school decided it was a subject they wanted to invest significant development in to. The work has been complemented by the school providing a range of educational off-site visits, assemblies and other opportunities, which has enabled pupils collectively and personally to celebrate their different religious and cultural backgrounds. Old Basford's revamped range of assemblies has included speakers from a diverse range of religious and belief groups, and its annual programme of work includes organising activities to observe Black History month.

Chair of the Inclusivity Award judging panel, the Revd Stephen Terry, said 'Schools can have a major role in boosting the acceptance of difference and diversity in society, which all too often gets overlooked due to the many competing demands placed on teachers. Old Basford School is to be congratulated for being self-reflective and pro-active in recognising that its provision of Religious Education needed to improve, and in adopting a package of other important approaches which have boosted pupils' awareness and acceptance of diversity. The judging panel is delighted to recognise Old Basford School as an example to others.'

Head teacher at the school, Vicky Shaw, said, "Old Basford School see it as a privilege to serve our diverse community. We are incredibly proud to have been acknowledged for this national award. We strive continuously, as a school community, to promote and allow all of our pupils to feel valued, accepted, recognised and empowered through celebrating multiple faiths, cultural backgrounds and using our whole school core values to embody an inclusive education for all. Congratulations to every member of our OBS Family; together, united, we can achieve so much!"

[Recognised](#) by Ofsted as a project for schools to support their work in advancing their legal equality and cohesion duties, the annual Award has been running since 2010. Joining Fr Terry, the Chair of the Accord Coalition for Inclusive Education, on the 2020 judging panel were:

- Professor Lynn Davies - an educationalist with a specialism in understanding links between religion in the education system and conflict
- Baroness Kishwer Falkner - a non-aligned working Peer with interests in equality of the grounds of religion and belief
- David Isaac CBE - Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and formerly Chair of Stonewall
- Sara Khan - Lead Commissioner for the Home Office's Commission for Countering Extremism

About the Inclusivity Award

Now in its tenth year, the annual Accord Inclusivity Award is open to all state funded schools in England and Wales. It seeks to reward those that work hardest at promoting an inclusive ethos and advancing the growth of mutual understanding, particularly on the grounds of religion and ethnicity.

Previous judges include former Conservative Secretary of State for Education, Lord Baker of Dorking; the then Labour Shadow Minister for Children, Lisa Nandy MP; the Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson; broadcaster and political commentator, Iain Dale; and the journalist and writer Polly Toynbee. Further information on the 2020 Award can be found at <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2020/>.